

TALK 8

• How Do We Know Jesus Rose from the Dead?

Matthew 27:57–28:15

1. How do we really know Jesus rose from the dead? There are four possibilities:

- The disciples stole the body.
- Jesus did not die on the cross.
- The religious leaders stole the body.
- He rose from the dead.

2. Why does it matter that Jesus rose from the dead?

- 1 Corinthians 15:12-19 - "Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied."

3. How should we respond to the fact that Jesus rose from the dead?

- You can ignore Him and neglect Him.
- You can believe that He has been raised from the dead.

Discussion Starters

- Where do you think Elvis is?
- What did you think about this talk?
- Which of the four possibilities do you think best explains the empty tomb: The disciples stole him, Jesus didn't die, religious leaders stole him, he rose from the dead?
- Are there things in your life that cause you to not want Jesus to be the risen Son of God?
- Do you think that Christianity falls apart if Jesus didn't rise from the dead? Why or why not?
- How do you think the resurrection should affect your life?

Book Recommendation

- *The Case for Christ*, Lee Strobel